

Message Text

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ORIGIN EUR-12

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FM SECSTATE WASHDC
TO AMEMBASSY MOSCOW PRIORITY
INFO AMCONSUL LENINGRAD

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PINT, UR, US

SUBJECT:JUNE 2 PRESS BRIEFING: SHCHARANSKY CASE

1. TRANSCRIPT OF JUNE 2 DEPT OF STATE PRESS BRIEFING
FOLLOWS:

2. "MR. TRATTNER: I HAVE NO ANNOUNCEMENTS.

QUESTIONS, PLEASE.

Q. JOHN, DO YOU HAVE A COMMENT ON THE DISCLOSURE IN MOSCOW
YESTERDAY THAT MR. SHCHARANSKY BE TRIED ON A TREASON CHARGE?

A. BERNIE, WE HAVE, OF COURSE, SEEN THOSE STORIES AND
REPORTS AND ARE DEEPLY CONCERNED ABOUT WHAT IS REPORTED.--
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Q. HOLD IT. AND ARE DEEPLY --

A. --CONCERNED ABOUT WHAT IS REPORTED TO BE HAPPENING.
MR. SHCHARANSKY IS WELL KNOWN AND RESPECTED IN THE US FOR
HIS EFFORTS ON BEHALF OF HUMAN RIGHTS.

Q. HAVE YOU INFORMED THE SOVIET UNION OF YOUR CONCERN?

A. YES. WE HAVE RAISED OUR CONCERN WITH THE SOVIETS.

Q. CAN YOU SAY AT WHAT LEVEL AND WHERE?

A. WELL, IT WAS DONE THROUGH DIPLOMATIC CHANNELS.

ON BACKGROUND, THE SECRETARY RAISED IT AT A VERY SENIOR LEVEL.

Q. WHEN?

A. I DON'T HAVE ANYTHING ON THAT, BERNIE.

Q. NOT TODAY?

A. I DON'T BELIEVE IT WAS TODAY, NO.

Q. I THOUGHT THE FAMILY JUST RECEIVED NOTIFICATION OF THE CHARGES YESTERDAY.

A. WELL, I SIMPLY AM NOT SAYING WHEN THE SECRETARY RAISED THIS MATTER. I AM SIMPLY SAYING IT HAS BEEN RAISED BY HIM.

Q. IN OTHER WORDS, SOMETIME AFTER HIS ARREST IT WAS RAISED, RIGHT? IS THAT WHAT YOU ARE SAYING?

A. BERNIE, I AM NOT GOING TO GO BEYOND WHAT I HAVE SAID ON IT.

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Q. JOHN, --

Q. EXCUSE ME. WHAT WE ARE NOT CLEAR ABOUT HERE IS WHETHER THE STATE DEPARTMENT RAISED THIS MATTER BEFORE OR AFTER THE TREASON CHARGE NOTIFICATION OF HIS FAMILY. CAN YOU CLARIFY THAT?

A. WHY DON'T I JUST SAY THAT IT HAS BEEN A MATTER OF CONCERN AND IT HAS BEEN RAISED WITH THE SOVIETS.

Q. BEFORE OR AFTER THE TREASON NOTIFICATION?

A. I WOULD SAY ON BACKGROUND AGAIN, MURREY, BEFORE THESE LATEST NEWS REPORTS APPEARED TODAY.

Q. JOHN, THE INFERENCE OF THE CHARGES IS HE WAS COLLABORATING IN SOME WAY WITH THIS COUNTRY AND THIS COUNTRY WAS INVOLVED IN HIS ACTIVITY. WAS THAT QUESTION ADDRESSED IN

THE SECRETARY'S REMARKS TO THE SOVIET OFFICIALS?

A. WELL, LARS, I AM NOT PRIVY TO WHAT TRANSPIRED BETWEEN THEM AND I WOULDN'T BE ABLE TO GO INTO IT IN ANY CASE.

I WOULD SAY THAT IF CHARGES SHOULD BE MADE AGAINST OUR EMPLOYEES THEY WILL BE DEALT WITH AS THEY ARISE.

Q. JOHN, I AM A LITTLE CONFUSED ABOUT THE SEQUENCE. YOU SAY ON BACKGROUND THAT THE SECRETARY RAISED THE US CONCERN AT A SENIOR LEVEL BEFORE THE LATEST ESCALATION IN THIS SHCHARANSKY CASE; IS THAT CORRECT?

A. WELL, I SAID THAT ON BACKGROUND IN ANSWER TO A QUESTION.

Q. ALL RIGHT. SO WHEN YOU SAY THAT THE SECRETARY RAISED LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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OUR CONCERN AT THE SENIOR LEVEL, YOU ARE ACTUALLY TALKING ABOUT A SOMEWHAT DIFFERENT SET OF CIRCUMSTANCES THAN NOW SEEMS TO BE THE CASE. I MEAN IT SEEMS CLEAR THAT THIS MAN IS GOING TO BE TRIED. IT MAY WELL BE A RATHER SPECTACULAR EVENT. THIS HAS NOT BEEN RAISED BY THE SECRETARY. HE RAISED SOMETHING ELSE.

A. OZZIE, I AM GOING TO HAVE TO STAY WITH JUST WHAT I HAVE BEEN ABLE TO GIVE YOU ON THAT.

Q. JOHN, IT HAS BEEN ALLEGED IN THE SOVIET PRESS IN THE INFERENCE IN THE CHARGE OF TREASON THAT MR. SHCHARANSKY EITHER WORKED FOR OR COOPERATED WITH THE CIA. DO YOU HAVE ANY COMMENT ON THAT?

A. NO. I DON'T HAVE ANY COMMENT. I WOULD NOTE THAT, AS I HAVE SAID, IF CHARGES SHOULD BE MADE AGAINST ANY US GOVERNMENT EMPLOYEES THEY WILL BE DEALT WITH AS THEY ARISE.

Q. IN OTHER WORDS, YOU ARE DENYING THAT HE HIMSELF WORKS FOR THE CIA?

A. I AM NOT ADDRESSING MYSELF TO THAT, BUT ONLY TO THE CHARGES -- ONLY TO THE QUESTION THAT YOU FIRST ASKED.

Q. WELL, THE QUESTION IS -- I MEAN NO ONE IS ASKING ABOUT US PEOPLE. IT IS REALLY HIM.

A. WELL, WHY DON'T YOU ASK THE QUESTION AGAIN, BERNIE? LET'S GET IT CLEAR.

Q. WELL, THE CHARGES HAVE BEEN MADE IN THE SOVIET PRESS AND THE INFERENCE CAN BE DRAWN FROM THE FACT THAT HE IS BEING CHARGED WITH TREASON THAT MR. SHCHARANSKY WAS EITHER EMPLOYED BY OR COOPERATED WITH THE CIA OR THE UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT IN SOME FASHION. IS THAT A FACT?
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A. WELL, AGAIN I AM GOING TO HAVE TO STAY WITH WHAT I HAVE SAID.

Q. WELL THEN, JOHN, YOU SAY IF CHARGES SHOULD BE MADE AGAINST US EMPLOYEES, BUT THE FACT IS THE PRESS HAS NAMED TWO FOREIGN SERVICE OFFICERS.

A. WELL, THE PRESS HAS NAMED THEM. I AM SAYING IF CHARGES SHOULD BE MADE AGAINST ANY US EMPLOYEES THEY WILL BE DEALT WITH AS THEY ARISE.

Q. THERE WERE REPORTS FROM MOSCOW TODAY THAT ONE OF THE US EMPLOYEES WHO HAS BEEN NAMED IN THE PRESS -- I FORGET HIM NAME -- HAS BEEN HARASSED IN VARIOUS WAYS IN RECENT WEEKS. IS THAT TRUE?

A. I AM REALLY NOT GOING TO BE ABLE TO GO BEYOND WHAT I HAVE SAID, OZZIE.

Q. HAVE SOVIET DIPLOMATS BEEN RESTRAINED IN THEIR ABILITY TO TRAVEL IN THIS COUNTRY IN RETALIATION FOR RESTRICTIONS PLACED ON EMPLOYEES?

A. OZZIE, I AM NOT AWARE THAT THIS IS THE CASE OTHER THAN THE LONG EXISTING SITUATION. YOU MEAN --

Q. AS A SPECIFIC.

A. I AM NOT AWARE OF IT. I COULD CHECK IT.

Q. THANK YOU.

Q. SINCE THIS EXPRESSION OF CONCERN CAME BEFORE THIS MOST RECENT INFORMATION ABOUT PLANS FOR A TREASON TRIAL, CAN YOU TELL US IF THE DEPARTMENT EXPECTS TO EXPRESS NEW OR LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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DIFFERENT OR STRONGER CONCERN TO THE SOVIETS NOW IN VIEW

OF THE CHANGED CIRCUMSTANCES?

A. I AM NOT ABLE TO TELL YOU THAT, HENRY. WHY DON'T WE SEE HOW THINGS GO?

Q. WELL, HAVE ANY SOVIET DIPLOMATS BEEN INVITED TO VISIT THE DEPARTMENT THIS AFTERNOON? LET'S PUT IT THAT WAY.

A. I AM NOT AWARE THAT ANYBODY HAS BEEN INVITED TO VISIT THE DEPARTMENT THIS AFTERNOON.

Q. IS ANYTHING HAPPENING IN MOSCOW?

A. THE SAME. I WOULD HAVE TO ANSWER YOU THE SAME.

Q. WILL WE BE TOLD WHEN AND IF THIS HAPPENS?

A. WE WILL DO OUR BEST.

Q. JOHN, CAN YOU TELL US ON BACKGROUND IF THE SECRETARY RAISED THIS WITH GROMYKO IN GENEVA?

A. I CANNOT TELL YOU ON BACKGROUND ANYTHING OTHER THAN WHAT I HAVE SAID. HE RAISED IT AT A VERY SENIOR LEVEL.

Q. JOHN, DO YOU HAVE ANY READ-OUT OF THE EXTENT OF MR. SHCHARANSKY'S CONTACT WITH THE US EMBASSY?

A. ANY READ-OUT?

Q. DO YOU HAVE ANY DESCRIPTION? DO YOU KNOW DID THE EMBASSY MAKE A PRACTICE OF SEEING HIM? DID EMBASSY OFFICERS INVITE HIM TO THEIR HOMES FREQUENTLY?

A. LARS, I JUST HAVE TO REPEAT AGAIN I AM NOT ABLE TO GO FURTHER ON THIS WITH YOU THAN I HAVE. ANY OTHER LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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QUESTIONS ON THAT ONE?

Q. ON ANOTHER SUBJECT..." VANCE

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NNN

Message Attributes

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